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EXAMINER

PARTHASARATHY, PRAMILA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2136

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/664,893

Applicant(s)

EVERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Pramila Parthasarathy

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 21-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 21-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to arguments or remarks filed on November 07, 2005. Claims are 1 – 12 and 21 – 36 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on November 07, 2005, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reasons:
3. Regarding the rejection of Claims 1 – 12 and 21 – 36 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, Applicant directs to instant specification pages 3, 5, 6 and 7 stating, "application servers 14 are coupled with the user computers 12 via the communications network 22 and are provided for running applications on behalf of the user computers", "user first launches some application or program in a conventional manner" and "user next logs into the selected authorization server 16 using account or ID information", "when the user attempts to access other applications ... while he or she is still logged into the system, these other applications may reference the Session ID ... for authorization purposes related to the new applications". Examiner agrees with the Applicant that above stated facts are disclosed in the instant application specification. Applicant further states, "Thus, the specification teaches a plurality of separately

secured remote applications". Examiner maintains that instant specification does not disclose "a plurality of separately-secured remote applications" as clearly detailed by the applicant's own citations from the instant specification, and restates that there is no disclosure for "a plurality of separately-secured remote applications" anywhere in the instant specification. Accordingly, the rejection for the pending claims 1 – 12 and 21 – 36 is respectfully maintained.

4. Applicant directs to instant specification page 6 stating, "The authorization server 16 then copies or links the Session ID or some derivative thereof to something on the user's computer 12 such as a cookie, shared application memory, or the computer's network address. It is important only that other applications launched by the user from the user computer be able to read or otherwise determine this Session ID by accessing something on the user's computer". Examiner agrees with the Applicant that above stated facts are disclosed in the instant application specification. Applicant further states, "One skilled in the art would reasonable understand that in the act of linking the Session ID to something on the user's computer, a link which may have the form of a cookie is created and stored. Once created, other applications may read (retrieve) it". Examiner maintains that instant specification does not disclose "storing a link or retrieving the link" as clearly detailed by the applicant's own citations from the instant specification. Instant application specification discloses "The authorization server copies or links the Session ID or some other derivative (such as a cookie, shared memory or the computer's network). Instant application specification further discloses, "The

authorization server 16 also creates an object representing the user or the Session ID and stores it in the directory 20 after log-in (see instant application specification page 6 lines 26 – 31). Thus the specification discloses copying the Session ID, creating and storing the Session ID in the directory. Examiner maintains that there is no disclosure for “storing a link or retrieving the link” anywhere in the instant specification.

Accordingly, the rejection for the pending claims 1 – 12 and 21 – 36 is respectfully maintained.

The dependent claims 2 – 12, 21 – 26, 28 – 30 and 33 – 36 are rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on the dependent claims.

5. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the cited prior arts [Alegre U.S. Patent 6,199,113, hereafter “Alegre”, Hartman et al. U.S. Patent 5,960,411, hereafter “Hartman” and Blanco et al. U.S. Patent 6,539,482, hereafter “Blanco”], disclose creates a session key that is stored at a client browser and is used to access a trusted network.

Alegre discloses a system wherein a session key is established for accessing a trusted network from a browser. The session key is created the first time a user requests access to a resource on the trusted network. Subsequently, whenever the user access the trusted network during the session in which the session key is made, the session key is transmitted with the access request so that the trusted network can use the session key to authenticate the user. Furthermore, Hartman discloses a method and system for ordering an item from a client system. The client system is provided with an identifier (cookie) that identifies a customer and the server system uses the identifier

(cookie) to identify additional information needed to generate an order. The server system stores the received additional information in association with an identifier of the customer and provides the identifier to the client system. Furthermore, Blanco discloses a network access authentication system including a directory service containing a remote access password and a standard access password for each user of the network, using an authentication protocol that provides information on whether a user is accessing the network locally or remotely, and including a front-end between the directory service and the authentication protocol.

6. Regarding Claims 1, 7, 27 and 32, Applicant argues that the cited prior art fails to teach, “an object associated with the Session ID is stored dynamically in a directory on a directory server couple with the authorization server”, “the directory server permits other computer applications launched by the computer user to reference the Session ID on the user’s computer” and “the user is authenticated and authorized to the second separately-secured computer application by exchanging the stored security information between the directory server and the application server”. These arguments are not found persuasive.

Instant application discloses that Session ID may relate to the date or time that the user logged in, the media access control (MAC) address of the user’s computer, the TCP/IP address of the user’s computer, the user’s name, an account code for the user, a combination of any of these criteria, or any other criteria. Alegre discloses an authentication server requesting a session key from a key server, which creates a

session key (Session ID) and storing the session key along with the user ID and PWD. Alegre further discloses storing cookies (small files used to store the session key placed on a user's computer by a server) and using such session key to request for other resources on network (see Alegre Column 4 lines 8 – 42; Column 5 lines 8 – 20; Column 6 lines 24 – 67 and Column 7 line 1 – Column 8 line 27).

Hartman discloses generating a single-action order summary (shopping cart with user purchases information), which is saved on the server system (directory) along with the single-action ordering information that includes client (user) identifier (session ID) (Column 3 line 31 – Column 8 line 25).

Blanco discloses a network access authentication system that gathers the data concerning the users, including authentication data, in a database of a directory, which uses Lightweight directory access protocol, which is specifically targeted at management applications, and browsing applications that provide interactive access to directories (Column 3 lines 22 – 67)

7. Therefore, the examiner respectfully asserts that the cited prior art does teach or suggest the subject matter, “an object associated with the Session ID is stored dynamically in a directory on a directory server couple with the authorization server”, “the directory server permits other computer applications launched by the computer user to reference the Session ID on the user's computer” and “the user is authenticated and authorized to the second separately-secured computer application by exchanging the stored security information between the directory server and the application server”

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broadly recited in the independent claims 1, 7, 27 and 32. The dependent claims 2 – 12, 21 – 26, 28 – 30 and 33 – 36 are rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on the dependent claims and by other reason set forth in this office action. Accordingly, the rejection for the pending claims 1 – 12 and 21 – 36 is respectfully maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1 – 6, 7 – 12 and 21 – 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The independent Claims 1, 7, 27 and 32, read, “ ... plurality of separately secured remote applications ...”, “... separately-secured computer applications ...”, “... first secured computer application ...”, “... second separately-secured computer application....”, and Claims 27 and 32 further read “... storing a link ... retrieving the link;”.

With respect to “... plurality of separately secured remote applications ...”, “... separately-secured computer applications ...”, “... first secured computer application ...”, “... second separately-secured computer application...”, although the specification discloses the authorization servers (16) are coupled with user computers (12) and the application servers (14) via the communications network (22) and are provided for authenticating and authorizing the user computers, the specification does not disclose “... plurality of separately secured remote applications ...”, “... separately-secured computer applications ...”, “... first secured computer application ...”, “... second separately-secured computer application...”. The specification does not indicate how “... plurality of separately secured remote applications ...”, “... separately-secured computer applications ...”, “... first secured computer application ...”, “... second separately-secured computer application...” are implemented to authenticate and authorize a computer user. Applicant amendment does not clarify “... plurality of separately secured remote applications ...”, “... separately-secured computer applications ...”, “... first secured computer application ...”, “... second separately-secured computer application...” and merely recites the claims 1 and 7 and summarizes claims 27 – 36.

With respect to “... storing a link ... retrieving the link;”, the specification does not indicate how to “... storing a link ... retrieving the link;” are configured to authenticating and authorizing the user to a plurality of separately-secured computer applications anywhere in the specification. Applicant remarks/arguments do not

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address "... storing a link ... retrieving the link;", and merely summarizes claims 27 – 36.

The dependent claims 2 – 6, 8 – 12, 21 – 26, 28 – 31 and 33 – 36 are rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on the dependent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1 – 4, 7 – 10, 21, 24, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alegre et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,199,113).

Regarding Claim 1, Alegre teaches and describes
storing security information for a plurality of computer users in a user profile
database (Column 4 lines 8 – 36);
the user launching a first secured computer application on an application server
(Column 4 lines 8 – 36);
receiving at an authorization server coupled with the user profile database log-
in information from the computer user who has launched a computer application
(Column 4 lines 8 – 40);

in response to step b, creating a Session ID for the computer user with the authorization server (Column 4 lines 8 – 40 and Column 6 lines 24 – 42);

storing at least a portion of the Session ID on the user's computer (Column 4 lines 8 – 42);

also in response to step b, creating an object associated with the computer user or the Session ID (Column 4 lines 8 – 42 and Column 5 lines 8 – 20);

storing the object dynamically in a directory stored in a directory server coupled with the authorization server and the application server (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49);

copying at least some of the security information relating to the computer user from the user profile database to the object in the directory (Column 6 lines 24 – 67);

comparing the log-in information entered by the computer user to the security information for the computer user and allowing the computer user access to the first secured computer application if the user is an authenticated or authorized user of the first secured computer application (Column 6 lines 24 – 49); and

the user launching a second separately-secured computer application on an application server (Column 4 lines 48 – 67 and Column 8 lines 22 – 44);

the second separately-secured computer application reading the Session ID on the user's computer (Column 6 lines 6 – 68); and

the second separately-secured computer applications accessing the object for the computer user on the directory server in response to the Session ID to authenticate

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or authorize the user for the second separately-secured computer applications (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49).

Regarding Claim 7, Alegre teaches and describes

a user profile database for storing security information for a plurality of computer users (Column 4 lines 8 – 36);

an authorization server coupled with the user profile database for receiving log-in information from a computer user who has launched a first secured computer application, for creating a Session ID for the computer user, for storing at least a portion of the Session ID on the user's computer and for creating an object associated with the computer user or the Session ID (Column 4 lines 8 – 42; Column 5 lines 8 – 20 and Column 6 lines 24 – 42); and

a directory stored in a directory server coupled with the authorization server for dynamically storing the object created by the authorization server (Column 6 lines 24 – 34),

the authorization server being further operable for copying at least some of the security information relating to the computer user from the user profile database to the object in the directory, comparing log-in information entered by the computer user to the security information for the computer user and allowing the computer user access to the launched first secured computer application if the user is an authenticated or authorized user of the computer application (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49),

the directory server permitting other separately-secured computer applications launched by the computer user to reference the Session ID read by the separately-secured computer applications on the user's computer so that the other separately-secured computer applications may access the object for the computer user on the directory server to authenticate or authorize the user for the other separately-secured computer applications (Column 6 lines 6 – 67).

Regarding Claim 27, Alegre teaches and describes

the user remotely launching a first secured computer application from a user computer (Column 4 lines 8 – 36);

authenticating and authorizing the user to the first secured computer application by exchanging security information between the user and an authorization server (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49);

storing at least a portion of the security information in an object within a dynamic directory on a directory server (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49);

storing a link to the object on the user computer (Column 4 lines 25 – 54);

the user remotely launching a second separately-secured computer application on an application server (Column 4 lines 48 – 67 and Column 8 lines 22 – 44);

retrieving the link (Column 4 lines 25 – 54);

authenticating and authorizing the user to the second separately-secured computer application by exchanging the stored security information between the directory server and the application server (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49).

Regarding Claim 32, Alegre teaches and describes

an authorization server for authenticating and authorizing the user to secured computer applications by exchanging security information between the user and the authorization server when a first secured computer application is launched by the user (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49);

a directory server storing at least a portion of the security information in an object within a dynamic directory, wherein a link to the object is stored on the user computer; and

an application server implementing a second separately-secured computer application for remote launching by the user, wherein the second separately-secured computer application retrieves the link, and wherein the user is authenticated and authorized to the second separately-secured computer application by exchanging the stored security information between the directory server and the application server (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 67).

Claims 2 and 8 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 7.

Furthermore, Alegre teaches and describes the security information including authentication and authorization information (Column 4 lines 48 – 67 and Column 7 lines 55 – Column 8 line 20).

Claims 4, 10, 29 and 34 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 7. Furthermore, Alegre teaches and describes the Session ID being based on at least one of the following: a date on which the computer user launched the first secured computer application; a time in which the computer user launched the first secured computer application; a TCP/IP address of the computer user; and a user name of the computer user (Column 3 lines 1 – 11, Column 5 lines 8 – 36 and Column 6 lines 24 – 68).

Claims 3 and 9 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 2 and 8. Furthermore, Alegre teaches and describes the authentication and authorization information including at least one of the following: user names, user IDs, passwords, public-key data, certificates, and access control information (Column 5 line 8 – Column 6 line 65).

Claims 21 and 24 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1 and 7. Furthermore, Alegre teaches and describes wherein the other computer applications access the object on the directory server using a dynamic directory service (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49).

Claims 30 and 35 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 27 and 32.

Furthermore, Alegre teaches and describes the steps of:

one of the secured computer applications storing application data in the object;
and the other one of the secured computer applications retrieving the application data
according to the link (Column 4 lines 32 – 67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 31 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alegre et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,199,113, hereinafter “Alegre”) in view of Hartman et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,960,411 hereinafter “Hartman”).

Claims 5, 11, 31 and 36 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 1, 7, 30 and 35. Alegre does not explicitly disclose that the method for dynamically tracking a user session includes the steps of creating a shopping cart and storing the shopping cart along with the object in the directory. However, Hartman discloses a method for creating a shopping cart and storing the shopping cart along with a unique client identifier (cookie), purchaser-specific information (Hartman Column 3 line 31 – Column

6 line 21). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hartman's shopping cart system into the dynamically tracking user session system of Alegre.

Alegre could have been modified by Hartman to arrive the claimed invention by having the shopping cart with user purchase information to be saved on the directory as taught by Hartman (See Hartman Column 3 line 31 – Column 8 line 25) and as suggested by Alegre (See Alegre Column 7 line 3 – Column 8 line 53). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Alegre by Hartman as discussed above because in a shopping cart systems user profiles are stored in a directory as taught by Hartman and employing the shopping cart within Alegre would provide an efficient and secure method for dynamically tracking a user session.

Claims 6 and 12 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 5 and 11. Furthermore, Alegre teaches and describes the steps of allowing the user to select items to be purchased and storing information relating to the selected items in the shopping cart (Hartman Column 3 line 46 – Column 4 line 26; Column 5 line 27 – Column 6 line 21 and Column 7 line 57 – Column 8 line 25).

Claims 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alegre et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,199,113, hereafter "Alegre") in view of Blanco et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,539,482, hereafter "Blanco").

Claims 22, 25, 28 and 33 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 21 and 24. Furthermore, Alegre teaches and describes wherein the other computer applications access the object on the directory server using a dynamic directory service (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49). Alegre does not explicitly disclose that the dynamic directory service comprises the lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP). However, Blanco discloses a network access authentication system that gathers the data concerning the users, including authentication data, in a data base of a directory, which uses Light weight directory access protocol which is specifically targeted at management applications and browsing applications that provide interactive access to directories (Blanco Column 3 lines 22 – 67).

Motivation to combine Blanco with Alegre comes from the need to provide authentication and authorization of a user available to an authorization server coupled with a directory server that stores the authentication (user) data. Alegre provides a discussion of the need for security and authorization information for all the resources that a user can access but is silent as to the specific details of the LDAP, see Alegre Column 1 line 51 – Column 2 line 35 (especially Column 2 lines 24 – 35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Alegre with Blanco because LDAP provides the authentication data stored in the directory available to all the applications that are associated with a directory server and provides interactive access to directories.

Claims 23 and 26 are rejected as applied above in rejecting claims 21 and 24. Furthermore, Alegre teaches and describes wherein the other computer applications access the object on the directory server using a dynamic directory service (Column 5 line 48 – Column 6 line 49). Alegre does not explicitly disclose that the dynamic directory service comprises the X.500 access protocol. However, Blanco discloses a network access authentication system that gathers the data concerning the users, including authentication data, in a data base of a directory, which uses Light weight directory access protocol that supports X.500 access protocol (Blanco Column 3 lines 22 – 67).

Motivation to combine Blanco with Alegre comes from the need to provide authentication and authorization of a user available to an authorization server coupled with a directory server that stores the authentication (user) data. Alegre provides a discussion of the need for security and authorization information for all the resources that a user can access but is silent as to the specific details of the LDAP, see Alegre Column 1 line 51 – Column 2 line 35 (especially Column 2 lines 24 – 35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Alegre with Blanco because LDAP which supports X.500 access protocol, provides the authentication data stored in the directory available to all the applications that are associated with a directory server and provides interactive access to directories.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO Form 892.

Applicant is urged to consider the references. However, the references should be evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosure. If applicants are aware of any better prior art than those are cited, they are required to bring the prior art to the attention of the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pramila Parthasarathy whose telephone number is 571-272-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a.m. To 5:00p.m.. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-232-3795. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pramila Parthasarathy
January 21, 2006.

CEL
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